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The Honorable David Boren
U.S. Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator Boren:

Recently, much publicity has been given to a so called "spy swap" in Germany. I rejoice in the release of Anatoly Shcharansky whom I understand has been imprisoned for some 12+ years.

Much credit for his release has been ascribed to the pressure of world public opinion mounted in his behalf. The feeling is that the Russians are trying to portray a new, peace loving image. Two things immediately come to mind. First, it is my hope that we and the rest of the world will not fall for that tired, old con job, and second, can the prevailing situation be manipulated to secure the release of the countless others who are being oppressed behind the iron curtain.

May I draw your attention particularly to the fate of a man whose name I'm not sure I can spell. Karl Wallenberg is about the best I can do. (It's kind of like trying to spell the name of that guy who owns the House Pays and Means Committee) I understand that Mr. Wallenberg was a diplomat who is credited with saving the lives of thousands of Jews during WWII. He was kidnapped by the Russian army who simply could not believe that anyone would subject himself to such risk without some selfish motive. If alive, this man would have been a prisoner for more than 40 years. Mathematically, his torment is something like 3.5 times more unconscionable than that of Mr. Shcharansky's. Can you, will you lend the power of your office to bringing his name to the forefront of public attention in an effort to secure his release from a horrible existence that can hardly be called life.

Similarly, the government in Hanoi has made some public statements in reference to the American MIA's. I am almost afraid to hope. It occurs to me that the enemy may be doing nothing more than offering lip service to an issue that has been a continuing annoyance to them with hopes that they can say, "See, we checked and there are no Americans here, so quit bothering us." It is conceivable that this may be a face saving device that they might be setting up for the release of a few Americans, perhaps a token gesture. There have been suggestions that the servicemen who have been held all these years may have been held because of the brutal torture they sustained and that their appearance and condition might be an embarrassment to the communist government. I am concerned that there may be some willingness within the American State Dept. to accept something less than full accountability for every American serviceman.

The Vietnamese government has opened the door a tiny crack, a door that has long been closed and I truly hope that every effort will be made to develop this opportunity to secure the release of every missing American and the return of the remains of every identifiable MIA possible. We need to play "hardball" with these dudes, Senator, will you help?

Most respectfully,

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